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fiction of Wrangel's phantasy suggested after the fact by the subsequent course of actual events.

In tracing the steps by which Prussia, finally allied with Russia, fought the spring campaign against a new French army, agreed to the armistice of June 4, and finally allied itself with Austria, the author does not seek to establish any startlingly new points. He gives, rather, a good clear synthesis of the researches of others, with particular attention to underlying motives. This first volume, which reaches only to August, 1813, closes with an interesting estimate of the influence of the newspapers and of the poets and pamphleteers. A second volume is promised at an early date.

SIDNEY B. FAY.

*Fürst Bismarck, 1890-1898: nach Persönlichen Mittheilungen des Fürsten und eigenen Aufzeichnungen des Verfassers nebst einer Authentischen Ausgabe aller vom Fürsten Bismarck herrührenden Artikel in den "Hamburger Nachrichten".* Von HERMANN HOFMANN. In two volumes. (Stuttgart, Berlin, Leipzig: Union Deutsche Verlagsgesellschaft. 1913. Pp. xx, 411; vii, 429.)

AFTER Bismarck's dismissal from office, it was universally known that the *Hamburger Nachrichten* was his organ, and that many of its communications and editorial articles were inspired by him. In some cases the content of an article left no doubt as to its source because no one but Bismarck could well have furnished the material. In other cases, in which it seemed probable that an article was his, there remained an element of doubt. For the historian, accordingly, the present volumes are of great value, for they contain a reprint in chronological order of articles inspired by Bismarck, from April 19, 1890—a month after his dismissal—to March 26, 1898—four months before his death. These articles, which vary in length from a single paragraph to a leader of 1500 or even 2000 words, number 375. Nor do these fully represent Bismarck's activity as "contributing editor"; for Hofmann gives a list with titles and dates of publication, of 273 other Bismarck articles. The importance of these volumes, not only to the biographer but to the historian, is that they substitute certainty for conjecture as regards Bismarck's authorship and thus make available, because authentic, a mass of previously doubtful Bismarck material. It is to be regretted that Hofmann did not enlarge his collection to three volumes and reprint all the Bismarck articles. His judgment as to the relative importance of the articles selected is probably in the main sound; but the biographer or historian may prefer to make up his own mind on this point, and it will be troublesome for him to be obliged to go through the files of the newspaper for eight years, even with Hofmann's key to aid him. Even for the general reader it is rather a pity that all the

articles are not reprinted; for Bismarck never spoke or wrote unless he had something to say and he was rarely dull. Many readers to whom the original files are inaccessible would like to see, for example, what he had to say about Cecil Rhodes and "Herr Oppert aus Blowitz", and how he treated such subjects as "Prince Bismarck as alleged 'sticker' and salary-grabber" and "England, the most virtuous country in politics".

The articles reprinted, as well as those listed only, fall roughly into three classes: (1) those correcting objectionable statements concerning Bismarck's career, aims, and policies; (2) those criticizing the foreign and domestic policy of Bismarck's successors in power; (3) those dealing with topics of interest in the political and economic discussions of the day. Articles of the first group are of course to be used with caution. Bismarck possessed, as he has shown in his memoirs, a highly reconstructive memory. Of greater value, in some cases of the greatest value, are the articles of the other groups. Some of them are of very special interest at the present moment. Bismarck's warnings against cutting loose from Russia and committing Germany to an unqualified support of Austria's Balkan aspirations (almost *passim*) read to-day like verified prophecies. The same may be said of his disapproval of German interference with Japan, when Germany co-operated with France and Russia in compelling Japan to give up its conquests in China (II. 298, 302). In an article of the first group, written to deny an assertion that he and Moltke were seriously at odds in 1871 regarding the policy of annexing Belfort, he made, almost *obiter*, the very interesting statement that, in the event of a "war on both fronts" it was Moltke's opinion that Germany should limit itself to the defensive against France until the contest with Russia should be carried to a successful termination. This statement having aroused question he reiterated it (II. 192-196, 206). In an article of the third group, written to urge governmental encouragement of German wheat-growing, we find a discussion of the danger of Germany being starved by a naval blockade (II. 217-218). There is no suggestion that such an attempt would be either illegal or immoral.

Hofmann was the channel through which Bismarck's inspirations flowed into the columns of the *Hamburger Nachrichten*. He made frequent visits to Friedrichsruh and to other places, in order to receive Bismarck's instructions; and he tells us that the prince frequently corrected his drafts before they went to press. Bismarck talked freely to Hofmann about events and persons, always distinguishing sharply between what was to be used in the newspaper and what was not to be used. Some of the material which Hofmann thus obtained he published later, in his own or in other papers; and much of this has been utilized by writers of Bismarck books. Some of the material given to Hofmann was used by the prince himself in his memoirs. Nevertheless, the personal notes and reminiscences which Hofmann has now collected, and

which he presents in the first half of his first volume, are in part new and are nearly all interesting. They constitute a valuable addition to the already extensive mass of Bismarckiana. Hofmann's intercourse with Bismarck, not only in its intimacy but in the amount of time passed in the prince's company, was incomparably more important than that of the garrulous and sensational Busch.

MUNROE SMITH.

#### BOOKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

*A Walloon Family in America: Lockwood de Forest and his Forebears, 1500-1848, together with A Voyage to Guiana, being the Journal of Jesse de Forest and his Colonists, 1623-1625.* By Mrs. ROBERT W. DE FOREST. In two volumes. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1914. Pp. xxi, 314; ix, 391.)

IT is a mere truism to say that reliable private family records are precious contributions to colonial history, but rarely are such publications as valuable as the present volume. The introductory portion, to be sure, is not new, being based on *The De Forests of Avesnes (and New Netherland)* by John W. De Forest. This was a conscientious piece of genealogical work published in 1900 as the result of the author's researches in local history abroad. He succeeded in patching together a clear statement anent the family in the little Hainaut town of Avesnes and in linking the line of Jesse De Forest, *tincturier*, who emigrated with his family to Leyden (after ventures in other towns, in the first decade of the seventeenth century), to that of the merchants of Avesnes. Major De Forest's task was complicated by the variety of forms in which the name appeared in France and the Netherlands, where French families often lost their identity under the semi-translation of their names, both family and baptismal. It was necessary to thread a way carefully through a maze of De Freests, Van Foreests, etc., and to avoid being deceived by appearances or allured into claiming connection with such a family as the Van Foreests of Alkmaar, for instance. Major De Forest showed his knowledge of the many guises possible to his patronymic, and made out a good case establishing Jesse as the ancestor of the family who settled in New Amsterdam, although Jesse himself never saw Manhattan Island. He was known to have been among those who petitioned the English ambassador to Holland that the king should be asked to permit the settlement of "fifty or sixty families, as well Walloon as French", in Virginia, the settlers preserving self-government, their own language, religion, and customs. Fifty-six heads of families put their names to the famous Round Robin accompanying this request. It was refused, though the would-be emigrants were assured of a welcome in the English colonies if they would go by families and